

## Romero cross liturgy

We invite you to use this liturgy to pray with us and with the people of El Salvador with whom CAFOD works.

### Prayer focus:

- Map of the world, highlighting El Salvador
- Large candle, eg. CAFOD candle (or you could use our virtual candle: [cafod.org.uk/virtualcandle](http://cafod.org.uk/virtualcandle))
- Romero cross
- Romero poster
- Large sheet of paper cut into wide cross, with a figure of Jesus drawn onto it.

### Introduction:

*In the name of the Father...*

**Leader:** *Today we join in prayer with the people of El Salvador.*

(Tell the story of Romero in your own words, using information from the timeline, or use the primary or secondary Romero PowerPoints or the short film on our website. You may wish to include a section from one of Romero's sermons.)

### Symbolic action:

(If possible, beforehand give people time to draw or paint figures and symbols to add to the cross that represent people in our global community who live in poverty.)



**Leader:** *We are used to seeing the figure of Christ alone on the cross. But in El Salvador there is a tradition of painting the local community and landscape on the cross with Jesus. It is a sign that Jesus takes our joys and pains with him as he dies and rises again.*

*Today we are inspired by Romero's words: "It is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing." We bring to Jesus those in our global family who do not have what they need. During the music, you are invited to think carefully about the words of Romero. Come up to the cross and write on it one thing you can do to help people have the basic things they need to be able to live as God wants.*

Play quiet music. When everyone has returned to their seats:

### Prayers:

#### **Inspired by Saint Oscar Romero:**

*We pray for all those who have lost family members through violence in El Salvador.*

#### **Lord, hear us**

*We pray for CAFOD partners working today with poor communities in El Salvador and around the world.*

#### **Lord, hear us**

*We pray for ourselves that we may always be as brave as Romero in speaking out against injustice and working for a more just world where everyone has what they need.*

#### **Lord, hear us**

*In silence, we make our own prayers. (Pause)*

**Let us pray:** *Lord, strengthen the people of El Salvador and all the people of God that – like Romero – we may be a 'voice for the voiceless', speaking out against injustice so that all God's children can be happy.*

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*In the name of the Father...*

The cross pictured here is made by one of our partners and has become known in England and Wales as 'the Romero cross'. You can purchase Romero crosses, in various sizes, from the CAFOD shop: [shop.cafod.org.uk](http://shop.cafod.org.uk)

***"Many would like the poor to keep on saying that it is God's will for them to live that way. But it is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing. That cannot be of God. God's will is that all his children be happy." Romero, 10 September 1978***